

Appl. No.: 10/626,903
Amdt. dated: August 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of 05/24/2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to FIG(S). 4 and 5. These sheets which include FIG(S). 4 and 5, replaces the original sheets including FIG(S). 4 and 5. The following changes have been made in the respective FIG(s):

FIG. 4 To more fully illustrate the environmental enclosure, a portion of the wall connecting the ends of the partial section of the wall has been included in the illustration.

The surfaces 40A and 40B of the wall 40 of the environmental enclosure and a portion 40C of the surface 40 A have been labeled.

The item number for the chuck has been changed to 70.

The device supporting surface 56 has been separately labeled.

FIG. 5 To more fully illustrate the environmental enclosure, a portion of the wall connecting the ends of the partial section of the wall has been included in the illustration.

The surfaces 60A and 60B of the wall 60 of the environmental enclosure and a portion 60C of the surface 60 A have been labeled.

The device supporting surface 56 of the chuck 70 has been separately labeled.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In the office action of May 24, 2005 the specification and the drawings were objected to and claims 1-20 were rejected.

The disclosure and the drawings stand objected to because, according to the office action, the claimed portions of the conductive wall of the enclosure and its surfaces that separate the device supporting surface of the chuck from the thermal device in claims 1 and 11 and separate the device supporting surface from an electrical conductor in claims 6 and 16 are not disclosed in the specification or the drawings. While the applicants respectfully submit that the specification at pages 9 and 10 and FIGS. 4 & 5 do disclose the claimed surfaces of the wall of the enclosure, the applicants request amendment of claims 1 and 11 as indicated above to further clarify the language and amendment of the specification and drawings, as indicated above, too more fully illustrate the wall forming the enclosure and to specifically label portions of the wall's surface referred to in the claims. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added and request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Peters et al., US Patent No. 6,002,263 (Peters) in view of Hollman et al. US Patent No. 6,424,141 (Hollman). The office action asserts that Peters discloses the claimed probe station enclosure, but concedes that Peters does not disclose an environmental enclosure having a portion separating the device supporting surface of the chuck from a thermal device. However, the office action asserts that Hollman discloses an enclosure for a probe station chuck comprising a device supporting surface (2) and a thermal device (5) and teaches "a portion (solid insulator 4) for separating the device supporting surface from the thermal device (see FIG.2). The applicants respectfully submit that Hollman, filed July 13, 2000, is not prior art to the instant application, a continuation of Application No. 09/345,571 filed June 30, 1999. Moreover, the applicants submit that Hollman's disclosure of a chuck including an insulating element 4 that separates the device supporting surface from a conductive element 5 (column 5, line(s) 59-67) does not disclose or suggest a conductive wall of an enclosure separating the device supporting surface of the chuck from a thermal device as recited in claims 1 and 11. In any event, the applicants assert that at the time the invention claimed in application serial number 10/626,923 was invented, the invention and the subject matter disclosed in Peters were owned or subject to an

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obligation of assignment to the same entity; Cascade Microtech, Inc. as indicated by the assignment records (reel/ frame: 014335/0083 and reel/frame 008615/0534, respectively). The applicants respectfully submit for the reasons stated above and pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(c) that claims 1-20 are not obvious from Peters alone or in combination with any other art, including Hollman. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20.

The applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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